**MBA Report**

**Handbooks**

Handbooks will not be included in the A/AA team packages this year. It will be online on the website.

**Registration and Team Rosters**

To provide members and associations with an intuitive online registration platform, while improving Baseball Manitoba’s efficiency in accepting registrations and communication, we have partnered with RAMP Interactive and introduced a Province wide online Registration System. Many associations have opened registrations for 2019 in the all new RAMP system.

• Associations were sent a log in and prompted to finish the set-up of their individual system.

• Accepting Online payments into the system is optional and can be set up for a fee.

• Players will be able to register into the system, using the link provided by the association.

• Registrars can use the system to create their teams (make rosters) and communicate with members, parents and coaches.

• Coaches (or Team Managers) will be directed to verify their roster information in the system. **Please make sure the team verifies each roster, not the central registrar**.

• The roster, once verified will be saved in the system no later than May 15 AND NO UPDATES WILL BE ALLOWED BY ASSOCIATIONS AFTER THAT DATE.

• Leagues must finalize “AA” and “A” rosters by May 15. Junior, Senior and “AAA” rosters can still be finalized up to June 15.

• Doing this would provide Baseball Manitoba with an accurate list of names, addresses, phone number and emails for insurance, communication and eligibility (age/region, etc.) and an indication of registration numbers earlier in the year, instead of waiting until June or July.

• Coaches will be directed to contact their league for a roster to verify.

**Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Commission (MLLC) Funding Applications**

For the second year in a row we will be using the MLLC Funds from Sport Manitoba to allot two (2) $10,000 grants to associations with specific plans in place for grounds and facilities improvements. An on-line form is created to be completed by your organization and to be submitted to Baseball Manitoba by Aug 15, 2019. A committee will be established to review all submissions. Preference will be given to projects to enhance existing baseball grounds or facilities, with the expectation that volunteer labour will be used where possible. All submissions will be considered on their relative merit and on the funds available. The review committee reserves the right to allocate the funding to those submissions deemed most deserving. All decisions by the committee will be final.

Application Form - http://www.baseballmanitoba.ca/administration/policy/mllc-funding-and-5050s

**Coaching Certification**

Free Initiation and Rally Cap On-field clinics in 2019!

**Note: there have been slight adjustments made to the coach requirements, by the Coaches Committee, these can be found on the webiste. For example, 13U teams will now need 1 coach with My First Pitch and assistant coaches at all levels (except AAA) will need online training only. Also, a $75 fine will be imposed to associations for rosters submitted without properly trained coaches. More information will be discussed at the AGM.**

**Baseball Manitoba Coaches Convention**

Baseball Manitoba Coaches Convention - The 2019 Baseball Manitoba Coaches Convention to take place the weekend of March 22-24 at the Canada Games Sport 4 Life Centre. We have secured an expert in the field of Long-Term Athlete Development and director of development at the University of Michigan, Joe Eisenman, PhD. There will also be an NCCP component on Sunday. Cost is $50 for a weekend pass. More details can be found at http://www.baseballmanitoba.ca/coaches-convention

<http://www.baseballmanitoba.ca/sites/default/files/2019-02/2019%20Coach%20Convention%20Flyer.pdf>

**Sport Manitoba - Respect in Sport Program**

Sport Manitoba and Baseball Manitoba believe in being proactive to ensure sport in our province is safe and welcoming for all participants. As a mandatory Sport Manitoba requirement, all coaches from all sports (that means every Rally Cap, Grand Slam, “A”, “AA” and “AAA” baseball coach) must have the “Respect in Sport” course completed before coaching. The course is 3 hours in length but can be completed at the coach's leisure, in its entirety or in segments at their own pace. The program is available in English and French and is provided free of charge to all coaches. Visit http://www.baseballmanitoba.ca/respect-sport

Once coaches have completed the RIS-Activity Leaders course, they will have 5 years until they are required to recertify. At that time, they will receive an automated email from the Respect Group letting them know it is time to recertify to stay active.

***Sport Manitoba also wants to ensure you are aware of the Support Line available to anyone needing consultation regarding any issues related to coaches. The number is 1-877-737-9875.***

**Grand Slam Baseball, the Grand Slam Jamboree and Tim Hortons**

Tim Horton’s will once again serve as the Grand Slam Sponsor and will be providing all Grand Slam teams with jerseys for all the players. Clubs are to order their own shirts this year, through an online system created by Tim Horton’s. Ordering instructions were sent to Grand Slam Contacts via email in February. Please check with your reps to ensure they have received these instructions.

This summer will mark the 22nd year for the 9U Grand Slam Jamboree, a non-competitive tournament focusing on fun and participation. This event will feature 2,200 children participating in an enjoyable environment held in several locations across the province. The Jamboree is designed to recruit and retain members in this important age category while promoting the virtues of Grand Slam. This year It is asked that the various leagues across the province hold their Regional Grand Slam Jamborees on a Saturday in mid-June. All participants receive a Jamboree medallion. Teams will also be randomly selected to participate in a Provincial Grand Slam Jamboree held on **Saturday, July 6 at Shaw Park, in conjunction with Baseball Manitoba’s Winnipeg Goldeyes Game Sponsorship Night.**

**Umpire Clinics**

On the Baseball Manitoba website, under “Umpires” is the online clinic application form for umpire clinics, which will start in March. Try to get as many umpires as you can and ensure that they are certified by attending a clinic. Note: registration and payment for clinics is now required online.

• Level 3 clinics have been scheduled for 2019, event details and registration are posted online.

• New Level 1 umpires will just be taught the basics (balls/strikes; safes/outs; fair/foul; catch/no catch). There will also be some instruction on positioning. This way they are not being overwhelmed with all the rules. New Level 1 umpires will not be introduced to such calls as appeals, balks, obstructions, and offensive interference. So, let your coaches know this, so they do not approach new umpires looking for calls they cannot make.

• Level 1 and 2 clinics must be done separately. They can be the same day but require separate rooms.

* 1. • There has been a fee increase, the new fees are:
  2. o LEVEL 1 - $60
  3. o LEVEL 2 - $70 (must be level 1 for 2 years)
  4. o LEVEL 3 - $100 (must be level 2 for 3 years)

**Bat Rules**

Wood bats are to be used for all Senior “AA” and “AAA”, 18U “AA” and “AAA”, and 15U “AAA” Provincial Championships. 15U “AA” and 15U “A” teams will still follow the minus 3 rule for metal bats. The wood ruling also applies to Western Canada and Baseball Canada 15U and 18U “AAA” events. Baseball Canada has implemented a minus 10 (-10) bat regulation at the U13 – 13U Regional events. The wood bat ruling does not apply to Western Canada 15U “AA” championships, as they will still use metal bats.

Baseball Canada, with Baseball Manitoba following allowed the use of 2 ¾ barrel bats while also allowing 2 5/8 and 2 ¼ barrels. This is for 13U and 11U baseball. This rule will remain in effect.

* **Leagues: ensure that for Provincial, Western Canada and National Competition that your teams have the correct bats. Especially related to 15U, 18U and Senior**

**2019 Important Dates**

Provincial Team Tryout Weekend: May 18-20

Mosquito Monster Mania:

• Winnipeg May 26

• Brandon May 11

Grand Slam Jamboree: July 6

Baseball Manitoba Day with the Goldeyes: July 6

Coach Symposium: June 8

Toronto Blue Jays Academy – Honda Super Camp: July 10 and 11

T12 Tryouts: July 11

Field Maintenance Seminar - TBD

Baseball Manitoba Convention – November 2 and 3

**Resolution #1** The following is a resolution from the Baseball Manitoba Competition Committee To Remove Rule 1.04.02

1.04.02 In Zone I (Winnipeg), “AAA” teams will be allowed to add “AA” or “A” players to their roster. These players are to be available for use at provincial “AAA” championships, following the completion of the “AA” or “A” season.

WHEREAS: Teams competing at the AAA Championship should have the same roster rules in place, before attending.

AND WHEREAS: The Competition Committee wishes to align Zone 1 and Zone 2 rules to create 1 baseball delivery system. BE IT RESOLVED: Rule 1.04.02 be removed from the Handbook.

**Resolution #2** The following is a resolution from the Baseball Manitoba Competition Committee To add to the existing transfer/release rule (7.02)

WHEREAS: Transfers/Releases should be obtained by any player moving from one League/Region to another, regardless the circumstances.

AND WHEREAS: Players who are deemed to have moved League/Region without the proper documentation should not be eligible for Provincial play, including Qualifiers.

BE IT RESOLVED: Rule 7.02.06 shall read: Transfers shall be required by all players moving from one League/Region to another, even if there is no program available to the player in his/her home League/Region.

AND BE IT RESOLVED: Rule 7.02.07 shall read: Failure to comply with these transfers will result in the player’s removal from the roster for Provincial play, including any Qualifiers.

**Resolution #3** The following is a resolution from the Baseball Manitoba Competition Committee To Remove Residency Rule #3 Residency Rule #3 - Players will be eligible to play with a league only if they reside within the boundaries provided. No player residing in a Zone 2 community may play with a Zone 1 team, and vice-versa.

WHEREAS: Rule 4.03 states: If no “AAA” team exists in a player's home league; the player will then be permitted to play for an existing “AAA” team in the league nearest to his place of dwelling which is entering an “AAA” team. That player, however, must still play “AA” as outlined in 7.01.01. if he chooses to play “AA”. Approved Transfers must be obtained in all cases.

AND WHEREAS: Residency Rule #3 has a negative effect on the development of players surrounding Winnipeg, as it forced them to tryout in other Rural areas much farther away from their home as they must avoid the city of Winnipeg. This ultimately forced players to choose to not play “AAA” at all.

BE IT RESOLVED: Residence Rule #3 be removed from the Handbook.

**Resolution #4** The following is a resolution from the Baseball Manitoba Competition Committee To change Transfer Rule 7.01.02 7.01.02 In cases where a player in an age category (e.g. 15U) has been released by a region and plays for a different region in the same age category, if that player wants to play with the same region team the following year, it is at the player’s option. When the player advances to the next age category (e.g. 18U) he must return to his home league/association or re-apply for a release.

WHEREAS: The current transfer rule allows players to stay in the new region throughout an age category, hindering associations ability to re-build AAA programs,

AND WHEREAS: Associations who do not have AAA programs in one year, may wish to re- establish their AAA Program the next year, in which case they will need those transferred players to register back in their home association,

BE IT RESOLVED: Rule 7.01.02 now read: All transfers will be for a 1-year term only. Players must re-apply for transfers and register in their home region annually.

**Resolution #5** The following is a resolution from the Baseball Manitoba Competition Committee To include the words “metal” and 18U in rule 4.05.03 4.05.03.1 Female players in the 15U category are allowed to use -5 bats in the “A”, “AA” and “AAA” league play, and Provincial, Western Canada and National Championships.

WHEREAS: Rule 4..05.03 states: Female players in the 15U category are allowed to use -5 bats in the “A”, “AA” and “AAA” league play, and Provincial, Western Canada and National Championships.

AND WHEREAS: Female players may use -5 metal bats in their 16U and 21U National Championships.

BE IT RESOLVED: Rule 4.05.03 will now read: Female players in the 15U AND 18U category are allowed to use -5 metal bats in the “A”, “AA” and “AAA” league play, and Provincial, Western Canada and National Championships.

**Resolution #6** The following is a resolution from the Baseball Manitoba Competition Committee To remove the contradiction between rules 6.05.01 and 5.03.07

WHEREAS: 6.05.01 in labelled as applying to Zone 2 only and states: Player selections for a “AAA” team going to provincials may come from any rosters (“AAA”, “AA” or “A”) from their league/region, as registered with the M.B.A.; provided the player was not already picked up by a “AA” or “A” team for regional or provincial competition. Provided, however, that the player tryout for their respective “AAA” league team first and not be selected in order to be eligible for selection by another region.

AND WHEREAS: 5.03.07 states: In Zone 2, teams will be comprised of players who are members of the league. There shall be no additions to the June 15th “AAA” roster. The only exceptions are as it pertains to injury replacements or pick ups after qualifiers.

BE IT RESOLVED: Rule 6.05.01 be removed from the handbook.

AND BE IT RESOLVED: Rule 5.03.07 will now read: Teams will be comprised of players who are members of the league. There shall be no additions to the “AAA” roster after June 30th.

**Resolution #7** The following is a resolution from the Baseball Manitoba Competition Committee To add a Tier 2 13U AAA Championship in 2019

WHEREAS: Baseball Manitoba currently hosts a 13U AAA Championship for 10 teams, following a qualifier which eliminates 1-3 teams.

AND WHEREAS: The eliminated teams from the qualifier do not have a Provincial Championship and therefore play a shorter season, limiting player development

AND WHEREAS: The Competition Committee believes that AAA player development will be improved by adding a Tier 2 Event.

BE IT RESOLVED: Baseball Manitoba host a Tier 1 13U AAA Event with 8 teams and a Tier 2 13U AAA Event with 3-5 teams in 2019.

**\*\*These resolutions all passed, however there was some slight modifications to wording. Once had have conformation, I will send out.**